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EXCISE

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EUR-00INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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INFO MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
USIA WASHDC 8107
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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by Don DATE 4/2/89
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E.O. 12386: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, UR, US, AF
SUBJECT: SOVIET COVERAGE OF RABBANI VISIT

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

SUMMARY

2. IN INITIAL REPORTS, THE SOVIET MEDIA
ARE TREATING THE RABBANI VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS
NOTHING MORE THAN A FURTHER U.S. EXPRESSION
OF SUPPORT FOR THE MUJAHIDEEN, WHILE TRYING
TO LIMIT THE VISIT'S POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.
THE MEDIA HAVE REPORTED ON RABBANI'S MEETING
WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THAT HE WILL MEET
WITH LEGISLATORS. END SUMMARYU.S. SUPPORT
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3. ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA JUNE 18 BY THEIR KABUL CORRESPONDENTS CHARACTERIZE RABBANI'S VISIT AS A FURTHER EXAMPLE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE MUJAHIDEEN. PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT OKULOV NOTES THAT THE U.S. HAS LONG PROVIDED POLITICAL, MILITARY AND MORAL SUPPORT FOR THE MUJAHIDEEN, CITING A WASHINGTON POST REPORT THAT ANNUAL ALLOCATIONS ARE 300 MILLION DOLLARS AND THAT OVER 300 STINGERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRANSFERRED. IZVESTIYA CORRESPONDENT USTINOV ASSERTS THAT CIA FUNDING ENABLED RABBANI TO SET UP TENS OF MUJAHIDEEN CAMPS ALONG THE AFGHAN-PAKISTAN BORDER.

POLITICAL LEGITIMACY

4. USTINOV DERIDES RABBANI'S POLITICAL LEGITIMACY. HE CLAIMS THAT RABBANI HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN FOR HIS "DESPERATE AMBITION AND CONSERVATISM" AND THAT AS A PROFESSOR AT KABUL UNIVERSITY, HE ATTRACTED THE MOST "REACTIONARY POLITICAL FORCES" AND CONDUCTED RELIGIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS AND POGROMS. USTINOV CHARGES RABBANI WITH CORRUPTION (ALLEGING RABBANI LINES HIS OWN POCKETS WITH U.S. ASSISTANCE) AND WITH ATROCITIES. HE QUOTES RABBANI AS SAYING THAT "TERROR IS MY WEAPON" DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN PESHAWAR.

ASPERSIONS ON THE PRESIDENT AND THE U.S.
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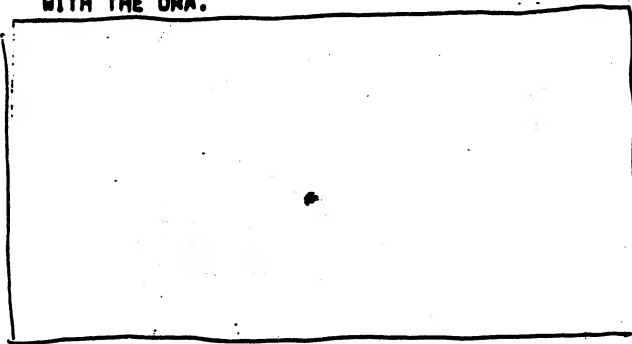
5. USTINOV, CITING THIS ALLEGED RABBANI STATEMENT, NOTES THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN PUBLICLY EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR THIS "MURDERER AND EXECUTIONER." OKULOV CLAIMS THAT THE VISIT AND PRESIDENT REAGAN'S "NASTY" REMARKS ABOUT THE DRA AFTER HIS MEETING WITH RABBANI ARE EVIDENCE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS LOST ITS SENSE OF REALITY AND PROPRIETY. SINCE THE U.S. MAINTAINS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

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WITH THE DRA.



7. KABUL-MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. HARTMAN

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